

A GOD READY TO PARDON (NEHEMIAH 9:7)

God, as He has revealed Himself to us in the scriptures delights to shew mercy and to pardon guilty sinners. He has not left us to guess about His character. David said of Him, *"Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee"* (PSALM 86:5). His readiness to pardon is seen in His longsuffering to Israel. God's dealings with national Israel are very typical of His dealings with spiritual Israel. Though we are no more deserving of mercy than they were, yet God in Christ Jesus has been pleased to choose, justify and pardon His elect (ROMANS 3:24). God's readiness to pardon His people is seen in the following points.

1) IN HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE (EPHESIANS 3:8-12)!

We must never think that Christ Jesus died to make God merciful. The death of the Lord Jesus is the result of the eternal purpose and love of God (REVELATION 13:8). Before Adam's rebellion ever took place the remedy and redemption of the sheep of Christ was absolute and certain (1 CORINTHIANS 15:22). Before Adam ever fell Jesus Christ stood as the Surety and Mediator of the covenant of grace (HEBREWS 13:20).

2) IN HIS GRACIOUS PROVISION (GALATIANS 4:4-7)!

God at great cost to Himself, from His own bosom gave His only begotten, well beloved Son (JOHN 3:16). God in His holiness and strict justice cannot simply give the sinner pardon, without honoring His justice (EZEKIEL 8:20). Therefore, God took to Himself sinless humanity. Living as our representative He perfectly obeyed the law for us in all its precepts & penalties (ROMANS 8:1-4).

3) IN HIS SATISFYING PROPITIATION (HEBREWS 2:16-18)!

How can God be just and yet justify the ungodly; be a just God and Saviour? That is the vital question of the hour, that nobody is asking. The only way is for God Himself to satisfy His own justice (ISAIAH 53:10). This is what happened at Calvary. The Lord Jesus Christ died in the place of His people, as the sinner's Substitute. Bearing the sin of His people being laid upon Him (ISAIAH 53:6), He suffered for them to satisfy God's justice (2 CORINTHIANS 5:21; 1 PETER 3:18). The atonement doesn't change the character of God, it honors and glorifies His justice and His mercy (PSALM 85:10).

4) IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-21)!

God in His infinite wisdom has devised very simple means to call out His elect (ROMANS 10:13-17). God effectually calls out His sheep through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ (JOHN 10:27). Wherever His people are, whoever they are, God will cross their path with the truth of salvation revealed in Jesus Christ (ACTS 8:26-40; 1 PETER 1:23-25; JAMES 1:18).

TOM HARDING

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

February 7th, 2016

"I acknowledged my sin unto thee,
and mine iniquity have I not hid.
I said, I will confess my
transgressions unto the LORD; and
thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."

PSALM 32:5

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February 21st, 2016

Schedule of Services

Sunday School **10:00 am**
Sunday Worship **11:00 am**
Sunday Evening **6:30 pm**
Wednesday Worship **7:00 pm**

Nursery Schedule

Today: Georgia Harrison

Next Sunday: Sarah Stafford

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

There will be no service this evening.

SIN

“I do not understand how a man can be a true believer in whom sin is not the greatest burden, sorrow and trouble.” — **JOHN OWEN**

“Sin is the dare of God's justice, the rape of His mercy, the jeer of is patience, the slight of His power and the contempt of His love.” —

JOHN BUNYAN

“Every yielding to sin is a welcoming of Satan into our very bosoms.” — **THOMAS BROOKS**

“How deep is the pollution of sin that nothing but the blood of Christ can cleanse it!” — **JOHN FLAVEL**

This morning we do what those who are perfect are doing. We do it imperfectly, to say the least, but by God's grace we engage in that which is man's highest calling and greatest joy: The worship and adoration of our great and gracious God and Savior.

CHRIS CUNNINGHAM

GOD WILL PROVIDE

“AND ABRAHAM SAID, MY SON, GOD WILL PROVIDE HIMSELF A LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING: SO THEY WENT BOTH OF THEM TOGETHER.” (GENESIS 22:8)

What beauty is found in the words of faith that Abraham expressed to his beloved and only son Isaac, who God commanded him to sacrifice. *“God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering.”* What a picture of “Divine Substitution.” God not only provides for us a sacrifice, but Christ, who is God, is the perfect Sacrifice and Substitute for chosen and elect sinners. God will provide Himself!

DAVID EDDMONSON

WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE

“AND IF ANY MAN SIN, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS” (1 JOHN 2:11.)

This scripture recognizes our frail, sinful human nature. A believer does not love sin, does not excuse or justify sin, but grieves over sin and desires to be without sin. Yet he owns and confesses his sin! As Spurgeon once said, “Sin is my name, sin is my nature, and to deny is to deny the Word, deceive myself and call God a liar. My old nature is such that I will sin until I die, for sin pollutes the best things I do.”

This scripture encourages the believer to trust and hope in the mercy of God AT ALL TIMES! It does not say, ‘If any man is holy, prayerful, and almost faithful, he has an advocate,’ but *“IF ANY MAN SINS, he has an ADVOCATE with the Father.”* It does not say, ‘IF any man sins he forfeits his right to Christ's advocacy.’ Grace that can be forfeited because of human failure is not GRACE at all. Mercy that is conditioned upon the merit of the creature is not mercy at all. If my title to glory rests upon my works, either BEFORE OR AFTER conversion, it is a total failure.

This scripture declares that at all times, under all conditions, Jesus Christ is our righteousness, our sanctification, our advocate and our redemption. So when I sin, when I consider my past or present, and come creeping to my closet with a guilty conscience and an aching heart, I can rejoice in the mercy of my Father; for I have *an ADVOCATE, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS!*

HENRY MAHAN